Human Rights Commission in States

1451. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Human Rights Commissions are supposed to be set up in all the States;

(b) if so, the States where these have been set up and where not set up; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that the Commissions are set up in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) There is an enabling provision in the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 for the State Governments to set up State Human Rights Commission.

(b) As per available information 10 State Governments, namely Assam, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Rajasthan have set up State Human Rights Commissions.

(c) The Union Government has been writing to the concerned State Governments from time to time to set-up State Human Rights Commissions. The last communication addressed to the State Chief Ministers in this regard was issued on 10th July, 1999.

Ban on use of Third Degree Methods

1452. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to ban third degree methods while interacting informations from the accused persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) "Police" is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, investigation of cases is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. It is essentially for the State Governments to ensure that their police personnel do not use questionable means

during interrogation of accused persons. However, the Union Government has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, emphasising that the police personnel should conduct themselves in a humane manner and that cases of police excesses should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly. Human Rights as a subject has also been included in the training curricula of police personnel.

Privatisation of Balco

†1453. SHRI LAKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to privatise the Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., Korba;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the said company is running in loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended that 51% of Government equity in BALCO may be disinvested in favour of a strategic buyer along with transfer of management control. The recommendation has been accepted by the Government. BALCO is a profit making company.

Diamond Mines in the Country

†1454. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of diamond mines in the country;

(b) the State-wise quantity of diamonds received from these mines during the last three years;

(c) the places in the country where new diamond-reserve areas have been found; and

(d) the details of time and States in which mining has started in these new diamond areas alongwith quantity and value of diamonds mined from such mines?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.